

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration of the non-final Office Action mailed April 1, 2009 (hereinafter "Office Action"), is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks. Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any surplus to Deposit Account No. 14-1437.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-10, 13-20, 23, 24, and 26 were pending with claims 13 and 15-19 being drawn to an elected invention. In the Office Action, all examined claims were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102. The rejections are addressed below in more detail.

Objections to the Specification

In the Office Action, the Specification is objected to because 4b is used to describe both the front half of the side contact surface and the rear half of the side contact surface. By this Amendment, the relevant portion of the Specification is amended so that 4c is used to reference the rear half of the side contact surface. This is consistent with Fig. 25(c), to which the relevant portion of the Specification refers.

In addition, the Specification is objected to because 4 is used to reference a recess groove. By this Amendment, the relevant portion of the Specification is amended so that 4h is used to reference the recess groove. This is consistent with Figs. 25(d) and 26(b), to which the relevant portion of the Specification refers. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP03125053 issued to Okamura; and claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP10213185 issued to Kato.

Applicants note that in order to anticipate a claim “each and every element as set forth in the claim ... [must be] found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). MPEP 2131. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to expressly or inherently describe each element of the claimed push blocks.

The claimed push block set forth in claim 13 includes a ridge line functioning as an oil film breaking portion for breaking an oil film that forms on the inner side surface of the annular V-grooves of pulleys that the push blocks contact. In particular, the ridge line set forth in claim 13 extends along the entire length of the contact surface at a middle part of the contact surface in the widthwise direction. In this respect, claim 15 includes substantially the same recitation as claim 13.

The ridge line does not have a width or thickness, but has a specific length. Applicants note that a “ridge” is defined as “the line of intersection at the top between the opposite slopes or sides of a roof.” *See Webster’s Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*, p. 1014 (1991) (Attached). Thus, those of skill in the art would understand that the phrase ridge line refers to a line that does not have any width or thickness.

The claimed ridge line engages the inner side surface of the annular V-groove of the pulleys, breaking down the oil film present on the surface of the pulleys. This maximizes direct contact of the push block with the pulleys. *See Specification*, Page 24, ln. 7-13.

In contrast, Okamura discloses a contact surface 50a having a width (C) located at opposite side surfaces of a block 28 be forming the opposite side surface in a trapezoidal shape. The contact surface 50a is formed for obtaining a large friction coefficient with the pulleys and cannot be referred to as a ridge line as it has a width (C). Accordingly, the contact surface 50a of Okamura is not a ridge line and does not have an oil film breaking function.

Similarly, Kato discloses a plurality of grooves 2e and projections 2d alternately formed on a side surface 2a of a block 2. The grooves 2e and the projections 2d extend along a travel direction or a width direction of the block. The width W2 of the groove at the front side in the travel direction is reduced for decreasing the thickness of the oil film.

In contrast, the claimed ridge line extends along the entire length of the contact surface at the middle part of the contact surface in the widthwise direction. That is, the claimed ridge line extends along a direction perpendicular to the travel direction of the block. This is different from Kato's block as the Kato block does not have an oil film breaking function.

Furthermore, Kato does not provide a Figure showing a cross-section of a push block having the claimed "front portion of the contact surface forming an obtuse angle with a front surface of the push block." The Office Action cites to Figure 7; however, as evident from the lack of cross-hatching, Figure 7 is a side-view not a cross-sectional view. Thus it is impossible to determine from Figure 7 whether the push block of Kato includes the claimed "front portion of the contact surface forming an obtuse angle with a front surface of the push block."

In fact, the only cross-sectional views provided in Kato clearly show right angles. See Kato, Figures 2 and 4. Accordingly, Kato also fails to expressly or inherently disclose or suggest each of the claimed features.

As neither Okamura nor Kato disclose or suggest each element of the claimed push block, whether expressly or inherently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections based on Okamura and Kato be withdrawn.

Conclusion

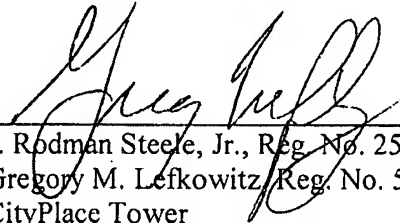
For at least the reasons set forth above, the independent claims are believed to be allowable. In addition, the dependent claims are believed to be allowable due to their dependence on an allowable base claim and for further features recited therein. The application

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is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. If any issues remain outstanding, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned (561-838-5229 x228) if it is believed that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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